

REMARKS

This amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed March 15, 2004, having a shortened statutory response period ending on June 15, 2004. This response is filed within the statutory period.

Claims 1-103 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 18, 35, 52, 69, 84, 86 and 88 have been amended. Claims 1-15, 17, 35-51 and 59-85 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,613,187 to Ding et al. (*Ding*). Claims 1-103 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,503,637 to Van Loon (*Van Loon*). Claims 1-15, 17, 35-51 and 69-85 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,410,651 to Castellani et al. (*Castellani*). Applicants respectfully traverse and disagree with these rejections for the reasons set forth below.

The present application, application serial number 09/526,357, and U.S. Patent No. 6,613,187 to Ding et al., were, at the time the invention of application serial number 09/526,357 was made, owned by Baxter International, Inc. In accordance with 35 U.S.C. §103(c), Applicants respectfully submit that *Ding* should be removed as a reference.

Van Loon and *Castellani*, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or remotely suggest a crosslinked polymeric blend composed solely of a first component and a second component as recited in the present claims. Rather, *Van Loon* discloses a three component film composed of an ethylene component, a propylene component and a polymer produced in a high pressure process using a free radical initiator. *Van Loon*, col. 2 lines 26-48. Consequently, *Van Loon's* three component film does not teach or suggest the two component blend recited in the present claims.

In addition, *Van Loon* and *Castellani* do not teach or suggest a crosslinked polymer as recited in the present claims. *Castellani* actually teaches away from a crosslinked polymer mixture as the *Castellani* cable coating is composed of a non-crosslinked polymer material. *Castellani*, col. 2 lines 30-43, col. 4 lines 63-67, col. 5 lines 13-17, col. 6 lines 39-42. *Van Loon* has no disclosure directed to a crosslinked polymer mixture. Rather, *Van Loon* discloses that the layer surfaces of a multilayered polymeric film may be modified by corona treatment or

irradiation in order to improve adhesion between adjacent layers. *Van Loon*, col. 7 lines 6-12. Accordingly, *Van Loon* and *Castellani* do not teach or suggest a crosslinked polymer as recited in the present claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-103 are in a condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
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